

January 25, 1930

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REGULATING AIR COMMERCE—*Engineering*





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The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine

EDWARD T. WARDEN, Editor

JACOB H. HODGSON, Jr., Publishing Director

HENRY E. FOWLER  
Proof Editor

JOHN D. HODGSON  
Circulation Editor

CHARLES E. FOWLER

JOHN T. HODGSON  
General Editor

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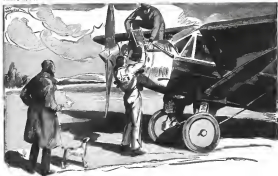
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE AVIATION SOCIETY

EDWARD P. WARNER, Editor

VOLUME 114 - January 25, 1930 - NUMBER 1

### The Postmaster General Speaks His Mind

THE SUSPICION that Postmaster General Brown is inherently unfriendly to aviation, and desirous of fading some secret means of stifling the air mail, cannot survive a careful reading of his recent address before the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce. His own implicit regret that he has not the legal authority to revise contract rates appears in some cases. He has approached the problem as a business man and with the desire to get it onto a commonsense business footing.

It is perfectly manifest that the present scale of compensation is absurd. Some companies are being grossly overpaid by the measure either of the general average return or of operating costs, while others are in constant danger of financial ruin. The method of compensation itself is inherently unsound in that it has made everything depend upon ability of a prospective contractor to estimate for an advance the amount of mail that will be sent over a route without even knowing what competing and parallel lines the Post Office Department might later establish during the period of his contract. Even if the provisions of law did not compel a new negotiation of new rates in connection with any extension of the original four-year contract, experience has made it obvious that modifications both in rate and in method are necessary to do equal justice among the contractors.

The Postmaster General has made a concrete proposal, calling for new legislation. He suggests that the domestic air mail be put on the same status as that for foreign countries. He proposes that payment be made in terms of distance flown rather than of weight of mail carried, and that the payment per mile should vary

with the load capacity which the contractor is required to have available for mail.

On this last point his address is a little vague. He says, "A schedule of compensation should be set up providing for the payment of perhaps thirty cents per mile for a weight space of one hundred pounds, with increased compensation per mile for increased weight space." The word "space" is full of confusion. It may mean that the compensation to be paid is absolutely fixed in advance and is dependent solely on the size of the airplanes used, or it may imply, what is far more reasonable from our view but seems less probable from the language chosen, that the mileage rate will be increased in proportion with the weight actually carried.

If the second interpretation could be taken as the correct one, we would find ourselves in virtually perfect agreement with the Postmaster General, but believing that the same result could be accomplished in another way and without new legislation. The sliding scale already employed between New York and Chicago furnishes the answer to the problem. Compensation can perfectly well be paid in terms of percentage if the rate is varied with the load actually carried on each run. Manifestly, there should be no maximum limit upon the amount of mail that may be turned over to the contractor. Those who purchased air mail stamps and affixed them to their letters will determine that point. Manifestly, also, there should be no removal of the incentive for the contractor to go out and solicit mail business. The air mail has been built up to its present dimensions in large part, to be sure, by the campaign made by the



Post Office, but they have been valiantly supplemented by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce and other national aeronautic organizations and by the private endeavors of most of the contractors. The clearest of adherences on the contractor's part if his payments are to be made on terms of advance down is clear. We have never believed, and do not believe now, that it would be in any sense impossible for an impartial board of experts on air transport, having nothing to do with any of the operating companies, to arrive at a loss of compensation on a scaled passenger basis, to take into account the probable amount of traffic on the air as it could be forecast, the inherent difficulty of the route, the probability of marked seasonal variations in demands on the service, and all the other factors involved, and to produce a formula that would be fair to all the contractors and that would hold out to the Post Office Department the hope of ultimate financial equilibrium.



### The Place for Unity

THE CENTER of gravity of aeronautical interests has located in Latin America. The air map of the United States has been far enough developed to permit that we turn our attention abroad, and our operators have looked first to the South. There they have met the French and the Germans, also reaching out for a foothold, while Britain, Spain, and Italian look on with quiet but none the less keen interest. In those millions of square miles of territory of the Western Hemisphere in which Spanish or Portuguese is recognized as the mother tongue the foundations of a bitter international rivalry are being laid.

Competition is assured. It will not be merely international. Already two American companies have reached the same terminus, and their planes will for an extended period of each other's routes. Competition is itself as to be welcomed, not feared, but it should be a constructive competition. It should not exclude co-operation. It should take the form of a rivalry in improvement of service, not of mutual attack by ruthless out-calling, by circulation of rumors, or by political intrigue.

These observations start interestingly as well as between nations of the same state. The cry of patriotism is now and again raised to rally all hands to the laudable effort to triangle the foreigners into the dust. Unfortunately, to put the case upon no grounds more altruistic than those of pure self-interest, the process of destroying foreign competition by direct assault is likely to involve the incidental destruction of the business over which the competition is being waged. The foreign competitor is here, and he could not be excluded by ignoring him.

The crossing of an international boundary does not suspend the operation of economic laws. The financial aspects of an air line in Venezuela or in the Argentine depends upon essentially the same factors as in California or Connecticut—in wit, the finding of an income sufficient to counterbalance the expenses of operation. Latin America has no larger subsidies to offer upon railway routes, and the income must be truly commercial. The appeal to the passenger or shipper can be increased and the amount of business done increased part passu, if all operators, French, American, German or whatever they may be—understand their schedules and their traffic requirements and simplify the exchange of business as much as possible. Operating efficiency can be enhanced, and the day of economic self-sufficiency can be brought nearer, by mutual agreement which will secure a reasonable balance of the load handled. For one company to have the contracts for the Northbound mail between two points and another for that Southbound, each line hypothetically carrying something approaching full capacity in one direction and running empty in the other, would be preposterous. It would be too wasteful to be endured.

Equally objectionable is the duplication or triplication of ground facilities. The doctrine of the mutual airport is not deeply ingrained in the repubblicans of Latin America. Operating lines have to create their own fields, lighting arrangements, radio services, and even weather reporting systems in many cases. The speed and efficiency with which some of them have proceeded to do so is worthy of the highest praise. But there should be vigorous effort to arrive at a fair basis for the common use of such facilities by all established and responsible operators. It is just as easy to go back South of the Equator as it is "North of SP" or anywhere in between. There is no necessity of weakness in a quest for economy, and there need be no surrender of competitive positions in an agreement among competitors not to build three airports to take care of a traffic that would require only a light load upon the facilities of a single one.

There has been little ground for serious alarm as yet, but airlines would be easy to make, and in the international field they are hard to retrieve. They will be avoided only if all concerned make up their minds that they will be as willing to work with their competitors as against them, and therefore maintain a vigilant lookout for opportunities to join in understandings for the general good.



### Forming Travel Habits

AT LAST America has air rates as low as rail rates, and in some cases lower. A winter operator has recently lowered the one-way fare between Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, to \$29.50. First class train fare with lower berth pullman fare, hotel

AVIATION  
January 31, 1938

AVIATION  
January 31, 1938

fare and tips figured in, amounts to \$26.80, or an actual saving of \$3 for the man who rides the plane. Another company, in the central southwest, has undertaken to match the railroad fares dollar for dollar. Admittedly these rates cannot pay the operators of the air lines a profit at present and some interesting conclusions develop.

The first and most important is that such radical rate slashes prove to us that air transport as operated at present has not yet proved an economic success. People will not pay more than a definitely limited percentage to ride the air lines, and our only hope is to increase traffic, install larger equipment, run on more frequent schedules, and thereby to reduce overhead so as to enable a profit possible at the lower rates. Aviation is still seeking to supply proof that the transportation of persons by air is a sound business operation.

The recently reduced rates, in California and other parts of the country, have stimulated traffic heavily, but there has been no overwhelming rush to ride the air lines. Granting the added convenience of traveling more rapidly by air and the great saving in time and money to business men that is thus accomplished, it is still apparent that those who travel are so in the habit of doing so by boat, bus, or train that even when money can be saved by taking to the air the air lines must be prepared to continue for an appreciable period of pioneering at some risk and sacrifice before such traffic may be expected to grow at a proper rate.



### Mutual Protection for Pilots

THE AIR is full of rumors of pilots' unions. They are being talked of in the East, upon the Pacific Coast, and in the Middle West. Professional operators are busy in the field.

So far as we are aware there are the first explicit attempts of them. There have been pilots' associations of various types. There have been airplane pilot unions, but those have been informal and loose, and have been settled without creating lasting trouble. The present proposals, vague though they are, point at something distinctly novel in the way of organization.

We do not criticize that an organization is union form can do any particular harm, whether it does any good or not, except that for a time it might waste a certain amount of money for its members if unwisely administered. Airplane pilots taken as a whole, especially those who have attained the dignity of positions with transport lines, are far too intelligent to remain with any association which does not actually serve their interest, and they are well able to protect themselves against the seductions of self-seeking willing delegates—let that term can be accurately applied to anyone concerned with flying.

Can a union be helpful? The answer depends upon exactly what it aspires to be a "union." A professional association for the development and maintenance of professional standards and for the exchange of information on professional problems is of unquestionable benefit. There should be some organization to represent the collective opinions of the great body of airplane pilots in dealing with such matters as the standards enforced by the Department of Commerce.

Such an organization, the air engineering society or an authors' league, inevitably concerns itself to some extent with the relationship between its members and their employers. It would be very properly concerned if any employer were insisting that pilots adopt courses either unethical or dangerous, but that is not all that the term union connotes to the understanding of the average man. He thinks under that title of an association concerning itself primarily, if not solely, with the improvement of wage levels and labor conditions.

The labor union movement in industry has derived much of its strength from, and rests its logical case largely upon, the comparative lack of flexibility of labor as a commodity. The working man finds it is no easy matter to drop his employment in one town and take it up in another, perhaps in a remote city. He has difficulty in informing himself upon the conditions there. Fearing that he may be turning to unknown costs worse than those so far experienced, he clings even to unsatisfactory employment, and sells an organization to make it better.

The pilot of an airplane is in a very different case. By the nature of his employment he is widely traveled. From the intelligence and alertness that that employment requires, it can be taken for granted that he keeps in touch with conditions away from home. The turnover in his employment is rapid enough, especially at the present time when the demand for pilots is steadily increasing, so that any general wage-cutting policy would have a disastrous effect upon the available supply of flying personnel upon whom the operating companies depend. Finally, the qualified pilot has a half a dozen different fields of employment open, and there is free interchange between transport flying, piloting for private owners, teaching, and various brands of aerial service.

There need be no need for a union. If widespread demand should arise for a sufficient organization to uphold the pilot's interest, the operators of aircraft would almost surely have themselves to blame. Anything in the way of industrial blacklisting, or of taking advantage to depress wages arbitrarily, or of widespread agreement of the necessities of individual pilots, would be the need from which counteraction would be sure to grow. The two parties can work in perfect harmony and settle their relations in direct negotiation if the pilot and his employer both take harmony as a fundamental aim. The pilot is not merely a hired man in a virtually fixed status. He is a vital part of the operating organization. His success is his success, and in many cases he is as successful as the employer.

# THE AERONAUTICAL USES OF Similar Products

By JOHN F. HARDECKER

**B**AKELITE is a synthetic product formed from formaldehyde and phenol or carboxylic acid. By a special process, carboxylic acid and formaldehyde react to form a resin-like material which is both soluble and fusible—but which has the distinctive property of becoming insoluble, infusible and very hard, strong, and resistant, after being subjected to heat. In the pure form it is transparent and amber like in appearance, and is known as Bakelite Resinoid. Though Bakelite is a component part of many products such as varnishes, lacquers, enamels and cements, the airplane industry is concerned primarily with its use in the form of Laminated Bakelite. Laminated Bakelite is the laminated product resulting from the processing of certain grades of fabric and paper with this resin like raw material. Laminated Bakelite products, in the form of sheet, rod, tubing and molded products, are made under the following trade names: Micarta, Celcon, Formica, Fibroc, Telexite, Ditelec, Phenolite and Spaulding Bakelite. Micarta contains paper or cloth, Celcon is made of layers of impregnated woven



The progressive stages of the sandblasting process which is done to a blade on each of the separate halves

weight, with a density approximately one half that of aluminum, yet moisture, grease or oil cannot seep or sear it. Its resistance to heat, cold, rain, ice, snow and salt air make it ideal for aeronautical use. It is extremely wear resistant, and makes silent contacts when used with moving parts.

WHEN it is used in all forms (sheet, rod, tubing and molded) in the aircraft industry, its present current application is in the form of molded aircraft parts. These used, it plays a significant part in aeronautical production. Therefore it will be well to consider these molded applications in detail, before proceeding with the aeronautical products manufactured directly in the airplane plant from sheet, rod and tubing.

Micarta propellers are constructed of a specially woven cotton fabric impregnated with the phenolic resin and formed in a mold under heat and pressure to exact size. Usually, two processes are used in the manufacture of these propellers, the process of molding and the process of machining. The molding process forms the exact shape of the blade, and the machining process prepares the inner ends of each blade for attachment to a steel hub, which is in turn securely held onto the end of the tapered crank shaft of the airplane motor. Centrifugal force caused by high reactive speed, and severe vibration

## Bakelite AND



Fig. 10. Photograph showing the method of welding the edges of the blade to motor of an airplane propeller

caution to such service, require that extreme care be exercised throughout the manufacturing process to assure uniform and high grade material, perfect balance of the blades, and perfect fit of the blades to the hub. Obtaining this uniformity and accuracy of manufacture with a product of such irregular shape presents some problems interesting both to the designer and to the machinist.

I n the manufacturing process here described it is first necessary to impregnate the fabric with the synthetic resin. This is done by running the fabric through a vat of liquid resin at a specified speed, and thence through a drying oven. This impregnated fabric is then placed in a highly polished, steam heated mold made of brass, and is forced into its final shape by the application of several hundred tons of pressure applied for several hours. The brass mold is divided into three sections, two of which remain attached to the press when the propeller is removed, and the third of which is removed from the press with the propeller. The part of the mold which is removed from the press with the propeller is the

outer portion, used in molding the heavy part of the propeller. Both the upper and lower blocks are removed with the propeller after which the blocks are detached. Before the laminations for another propeller are placed in the mold, the mold is polished thoroughly, the high polish of the finished propeller depending on the polish of the mold.

The propeller is next sawed in two through the center and the two separate blades are sent to the machining shop. Fig. 1 shows the progressive stages of the machining operation, the work being done in a lathe in two stages. The blade is then set up in a lathe ready for the rough machining operation. The final process consists of machining the hub end of the blade so fit the steel hub already referred to. When the blade is machined, a hole is drilled in the rod to be used for the adjustment of balance. This is necessary to balance the blade harmonically.

In balancing the blade horizontally, it is placed in a balancing machine (Fig. 11). In place of a second blade a fixture is used which exactly compensates for the un-



Photograph showing method of balancing the propeller blade horizontally

fibroc, Fibroc is Bakelite mixed with asbestos, and Ditelec is a product using Bakelite and sheets of tough paper.

Laminated Bakelite is non-hygroscopic, tough, strong, resistant, resistant to heat, cold, acids, chemicals, fumes and high electrical voltages. As it is chemically inert, it does not deteriorate with age. Being a laboratory product, it is accurate and can be held to a given standard for any particular purpose. It is also extremely light in

*The airplane manufacturer, due to the workings of the inflexible law of minimum weight for maximum strength, must of necessity study each detail of his design not only in terms of dimensional proportions, but also as to the material or materials best suited to each particular purpose. This naturally requires an exactitude of knowledge extending into the intimate technical refinements and possibilities of each material, and generally requires constant detail material study, even after*

*a given basic plane design has been established. Among the most interesting of the newer materials which are finding increasing application in aircraft manufacture are Bakelite and the other synthetic resin products made from it. In the accompanying article Mr. Hardecker deals in detail with Laminated Bakelite in the form of molded aircraft parts, Bakelite Resinoid products, miscellaneous molded products, and the methods of finishing and working Laminated Bakelite.*

rest, predetermined weight of a single blade. The blade and fixture are set in a horizontal plane and balance is obtained by adding or removing weight to, or from, the drilled hole. To check the vertical balance of the complete propeller, two matched blades are set up in the balancing machine.

The method of setting the angle of the blades is very simple (Fig. III). The blade is printed to a vertical axis on a carefully leveled table, and the angle is set by the use of an adjustable protractor. This angle is set across the flat side of the blade at a specified gage point. When the angles of both blades are set, they are firmly fixed in the steel hub, and the complete propeller is ready for test and shipment (Fig. IV).

The high efficiency of these propellers is due to their thickness and the aerodynamically correct form that can be realized. These blades are rigid in order to avoid a maximum of abuse. Moreover, any spray or oil has no effect on them, and sand or stones will not splinter them. Because of the maturity of this material, there is no incidence of the propeller to oxyacetylene. Change of temperature and humidity has no effect upon their material.

One of the desirable features of these propellers is the point of changing the blade angle, and as the pitch is given by means of the cone rings. Adjustments can be made with an ordinary wrench. A low pitch setting will allow the engine to turn up fast permitting quick take-off. This is particularly desirable when leaving a small field. A high pitch setting can be used if it is desired to hold the engine speed down at full throttle for fuel economy. In high cruising speed in level, the blades can be given an intermediate setting. These propellers have a marked scale on the hub to allow pilots to change the pitch on the field.

These propellers, because of their flange construction, absorb vibrations due to thrust and torque irregularities. They are, therefore, especially desirable on planes having multiple engines with overlapping propellers, or where there are other obstructions to the slip stream which cause fluttering. The absence of vibration leads to another desirable characteristic—quietness. Due to the



How rubber interior lining isolates bearings with padding for the doors and walls.

low density of their material, a propeller for a 150 to 250 hp engine weighs only 54 lb.

Modern airplane pilots, desiring to the seconds of practically every outstanding moment lost during the past few years, have been adopting as standard equipment by mechanical aircraft manufacturers on the basis of safety, light weight and low cost. They have been



Fig. IV—The completed propeller ready for shipment.

adopted as AN and SAE Standards for aeronautical use. These pulleys wear less wear on the guide rollers than pulleys made of other materials. The latter results in a decrease of cable replacement and is a greater factor of safety. In addition these pulleys do not develop the flat spots so common to steel types. Self lubricated bearings are molded into the pulleys, thereby eliminating the need for lubrication. They are available in a wide range of sizes, suitable for every aeronautical need.

Nicarsit cables are designed to guide the control wires in places. They prevent wear on the cable which otherwise would drag on the frame cross-braces, etc. The Nicarsits consist of two halves, one in a steel bracket, and which are used together with a length of soft copper wire. This permits of the replacement of worn or broken halves without the necessity of disconnecting the control cable. They are available in two sizes, which cover the normal range of control cable diameters.

One of the most recent developments of these plastic products is the molded universal made from a laminated, flame base material that is particularly well suited to withstand the stresses arising to which teleflexes are subjected. These teleflexes are extremely strong and light. One style, weighing approximately 4 lb., is fitted with a self-lubricating bearing, while another style is furnished with a bronze bearing designed for the usual type of shaft lubrication in which grease is introduced to the bearing through the shaft.

Engine bearings are made with a finely drilled cast aluminum as a base. They are provided with self lubricating cones similar to those used on the airplane pulleys. These mounts have bearings are used for motor, elevator and aileron bearings in a substitute for metal. They are lighter than the ordinary metal hinges and are very strong mechanically.

Bakelite instead, the original transparent Bakelite material is also used to a limited degree for airplane parts. The Kroyco Aircraft Corporation uses this material in making its light prongs because the glassy amber color eliminates glare and cypselins, is very durable, and can be machined and assembled more satisfactorily than glass. Control stick handles of richly colored Bakelite Remond are used to lend a distinctive touch to the decorative scheme.

While many of the preceding fabric base airplane products described in detail were molded products, there is another class of general molded products which find aeronautical application. These employ the original material to which are added such fibers as wood shrap for general use, asbestos for heat resistance and graphite for dry bearings. Metal parts may be embedded in molded pieces at the time of molding, thus saving each labor and

expense over the method of assembling this work by hand.

Model Bakelite is used in aircraft engine casings for distributor blocks, distributor heads and rotors, caps and spools. Pump gears, etc., are made of molded Bakelite, and the gear stock is available in molded blocks. It is also used for the knobs on engine control lever units. Model Bakelite is finding increasing application for aircraft instrument dials, and new manufacturers use it to replace the former metal casing of his ball bank indicator.

The airplane manufacturer finds a multiplicity of applications of laminated Bakelite in parts manufactured at his own plant. While these uses are not as significant as those as the molded products, they indicate a range of possibilities which is constantly being added to, in this material because better established in the aeronautical industry.

Laminated Bakelite has been found exceptionally well suited for use as a lining for cabins and cockpits, thus it is sound proof, dust, gasproof to moisture, fire re-



Molded mounting parts used in type 80 C. B. 11 cylinder Rotax engine.

sistant and available in several colors. It has been used to a limited degree in fire systems, for reinforced hose and flares for tube fittings. Bakelite tubing may also be used as a sleeve on fuel lines to the way of control wires, being taped in place to serve as a rubbing strip to prevent possible electrical contact.

Due to its properties as a non-conductor of electricity, Laminated Bakelite is machined to various forms as insulators, junction blocks, spacers, etc., in electrical and radio installations. In internal wing antenna installations, it serves both as an insulator from the metal construction, and as a spacer for the antenna wires. It is used for radio panels, and other conducting surfaces, airplane radio installations, as well as in the original radio sets and radios because furnished by radio manufacturers.

Laminated Bakelite is machined to various special shapes for use as spacers and filters in metal plate construction. It may be used in spacers in metal wing construction, and in places in the structure where two plates join in such a way that the included angle is too small to permit riveting in the individual plates, and it is necessary to provide a fillet for smooth fitting. Bakelite blocks have been used in metal hull construction for water tightness by insertion in the longitudinal channels at the water-tight frames. They are used for this latter purpose because wood blocks would invite corrosion by contact with aluminum alloy, while aluminum alloy blocks would be of greater weight.

Laminated Bakelite is further used as filters to develop control bearing area, as in an elevator torque arm built up of aluminum alloy plates, using two metal lines depending each other to form the desired Bakelite filter between. Struts shaped spacers have also been used to carry fuel lines and engine controls up a round brace strut, the entire assembly being covered with sheet metal formed around the struts. Shaped spacers Bakelite laminated weather, both plain and beveled, find a number of uses in airplane construction, and bakelite has been used for control wheels.

NO MATTER how desirable the other properties of a material, its ability to be worked and machined in the shop is of extreme significance to the airplane manufacturer in his choice of materials. Bakelite may be machined in the shop in a manner similar to metal, bearing in mind that good results depend upon a reasonable observance of any previous practice on Bakelite. The following detailed observations should be found helpful.

Turning: Bakelite in act up in the lathe as the same manner as it is used with metals, except for the caution that care should be taken in tightening up before the chuck to observe the possibility of cracking, as it is more brittle than metals. The use of a lubricant is not desirable, and whenever possible, it should be turned to size as a single cut. In any case the finishing cut should remove  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. because it is impossible to take a light cut and maintain a uniform diameter.

The piece should be turned at a peripheral speed about 15 per cent faster than that customary for cast iron. It is generally advisable to use a wide nose tool with a coarse feed. The tool should have a large clearance, but no side. The tool should be sharpened frequently, as it is inclined to dull quickly.

Drilling & Threading: Drilling is best accomplished with a twist drill and the use of high carbon steel drill without lubricant. To make certain of a clean hole on the under side it is desirable to clamp the Bakelite sheet being drilled to a longer wood board at the point where the hole breaks through, thus eliminating any possibility of chipping. If the drill is properly ground, the hole will be true and smooth like sheet metal.

Reaming should be ground slightly off center if the hole must be the same size as the drill. The life of a drill before regrounding is highly variable, but it should not be exceed a half hour. For holes of  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. drill speeds may range from 2,800 to 10,000 r.p.m. To prevent excessive heating of the drill it should be withdrawn quickly from the material. Several drill manufacturers are now making drills especially for Bakelite work. They are provided with extra clearance on the edge of the flutes to reduce friction and prevent over-heating.

It is possible to use an ordinary countersink, but due to the rapid wear and difficulty of re-grinding, a modified drill may be used to great advantage. The drill should be ground to the proper angle for countersinking with very little clearance. For finishing, ordinary taps and dies are suitable, using lubricants, as with metal.

Sawing: In using hand or circular saws, the same

Bakelite control wheel bases, as used on several types of planes.

speeds should be used on far hard woods or fibre, with the custom that saws must be sharpened and reset often. Circular saws should be made of hard steel, just soft enough to permit of filing. Number of teeth and amount of set should be governed by the smoothness of the cut required. For extremely smooth edges saws should be hollow ground, and should be reset without set.

Kinds of the work will dictate the frequency of sharpening. In stock of certain grades and thickness, a hand saw will cut effectively for two hours, and a circular saw will need re-sharpening after twenty minutes. Where a large amount of sawing is done, a filing machine for each bench will be found a great convenience and time saver.

For STRAIGHT CUTS a hand saw width of one inch is most desirable—for scroll work,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. width. The usual hand saw has a 36 in. diameter blade, and should run at about 4,000 linear feet per minute, or from 380 to 800 r.p.m. at 5½ points per inch and 10-graze thickness is usual.

The standard circular saw used is of 10 in. diameter working at 2,500 r.p.m.—on stock, 1 in. or less in thickness. For greater thicknesses larger diameters up to 16 in. are employed. A 16 in. saw runs at about 1,500 r.p.m. For general use a 14 in. saw, thickness from  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., with 110 to 120 teeth and turning at a speed of 2,500 r.p.m., is recommended. On this material a coping saw can be used to advantage at the same rate that it is used for wood. The saw will usually be good for one cut-out. Hack saws can be used the same as in any wood.

Where an exact cut-out of irregular outline is to be made from heavy sheet, Bickels, it can be performed by use of the pressure for making small steel templates in lieu of sawing. This consists of scribbling the outline on the sheet, drilling accurate holes closely spaced just outside the outline, and then breaking it out successively



Hand tools including material used in Plummer aircraft construction.



Roller set used on Bickel's lathe showing one of rollers in back and roll frame.

between holes by the use of a wood chisel. The part is then finished by hand filing, or on the filing machine.

Milling and Planing. In milling, high speeds and coarse feed are desirable so that the cutter throws the chips away from the work. Whenever possible, it is advisable to remove all the material in one cut. Side milling cutters are advisable in the interest of proper clearance. Oil will prevent the burning of tools, but is not always necessary. The cutting edge of the mill, if ground with a right rake, will give better results. As in the case of milling, so also in planing, a high speed and coarse feed should be used. A deep cut, not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  in., should be taken.

Punching and Sawing. A plan punch and die may be used on stock up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. thickness. Dies must be kept sharp and sometimes clearance allowed between punch and die. For best results, the material should be heated thoroughly and uniformly in an oven or on a steam table to a consistency of 380° F. It is frequently convenient to locate a steam heated table beside the punch operation.

Shots between  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. in thickness should be finished and then finished in a shaving die. The work should be heated and oiled. Edges of the shaving cutter should have a slope of about 45 deg.

The shaving operation is not recommended for preparing dies from heavy stock. It is preferable that they be sawed and then turned on a lathe. The shaving operation on thick stock has a tendency to "delaminate" the layers and to weaken the structure.

Sawing. Bickels Laminated, which is to be sheared, should be heated (120° F. to 300° F., depending on grade), to prevent checking in at the edge. Since there is difficulty in holding the heat in this stock, during the transfer from heating place to press, it is well here, as in sawing, to have these units closely adjacent.

Surface Finishing. A dull surface finish for ornamental purposes can be accomplished satisfactorily by rubbing with porous stone cloth, and finishing with oil. A dull sat finish can be secured by rubbing with No. 0 emery cloth, and finishing with No. 00 of the same material. The use of emerypaper in place of emery or borazonum is desirable for side parts, because particles of the latter materials might adhere and affect the electrical properties.

## DETERMINING THE Effect of Lightning

### UPON THE AIRPLANE

By WALTER E. BURTON

**L**IGHTNING . . . word is becoming increasingly important in the aviation world. To the pilot, it signifies something to avoid. To the passenger, it labels one of the possible hazards he faces when making a trip by air. To the airplane manufacturer, it represents a factor which he possibly ought to take into consideration when designing a plane, but usually does not, except to comply with regulations governing loading. To the airline operator, the word has a dollar and cents meaning, for one disaster in which lightning is reported to have played a part, whether it did or not, is almost certain to result in a loss of business, for a time at least.

The thunderstorm is admittedly a region to avoid today, yet air travel of the future will not be interrupted by storms as it is now. Of the two main sources of danger in a thunderstorm, lightning and wind, the former is likely to be feared the more, whereas the latter undoubtedly is the more dangerous.

But no one, at the present time, can venture to make a sweeping declaration concerning the part lightning plays in flying. There simply is not enough available scientific data to permit a definite statement as to the degree of hazard that lightning provides. There is almost no accurate information about the actual striking of a plane by natural lightning, although newspaper reports of some of the major accidents list lightning as the cause.

If it is such an answer in the various questions that arise when lightning and its effect on the airplane are discussed, that Arthur O. Austin, chief engineer of the Ohio Insulator Co. of Barberton, Ohio, and consulting engineer for the Ohio Brass Co. of Mansfield, recently began a series of tests with "man-made" lightning.

The lightning-striking tests are being carried out at the Ohio Insulator Company's outdoor, high-voltage laboratory, located just outside of Barberton. It is the most powerful plant of its kind in the world. With the more than \$2,000,000 worth of equipment available,

*The effect of lightning upon an airplane in flight is a subject about which very little has been said or written. At present it is still very much of a problem, and one demanding satisfactory solution and security, if the confidence of the air passenger is to be obtained.*

*In an endeavor to seek out the "mysteries" of that problem, chief engineer of the Ohio Insulator Company, Barberton, Ohio, Arthur O. Austin, is now conducting a series of extensive tests with man-made lightning. The nature of Mr. Austin's tests and the equipment that he is using are covered in a most interesting way in this article.*

artificial lightning bolts of more than 3,000,000 volts potential, connected to ground, have been generated. New equipment being provided at the rate of wiring will make possible production of even more powerful discharges. A spark of more than 3,000,000 volts produces a nearly 30 ft. long, and the expense of such a discharge runs into the hundreds of thousands.

In carrying on the work, the insulator company is working in co-operation with Popular Mechanics Magazine of Chicago, which suggested the tests and has provided a Buick NB-3 all-metal frame monoplane

as well as several other pieces of equipment. Other planes and parts are to be test by various manufacturers, and perhaps the Department of Commerce and other government departments.

The research has been thoroughly planned, in order that no major phase of contention in the lightning-airplane question will be overlooked. Preliminary tests have been carried out with scale models of well-known air-



Man near lightning rod and testing a wheel of a metal plane.

planes, and with engines, wing sections, fuel tanks, ignition systems, tail assemblies and other parts of full-scale airplanes. Further experiments are being planned with full-sized airplanes, set up and simulated in such a manner that actual flying conditions are almost duplicated. In some of the tests, the engines probably will be running and the fuel tanks filled with gasoline, although preliminary investigation with smaller airplanes may prove this to be unnecessary or unwise.

Problems to be studied are numerous. It is to be proved conclusively whether or not an airplane can be struck by lightning while in flight. Almost everyone has heard stories and airplane experts of unquestioned authority declare that a plane cannot be struck by lightning while in flight. While, on the other hand, some of equal authority maintain that it can. Although records of tests have not yet been studied exhaustively, preliminary experiments with models indicate that a plane can be struck, and that it can deflect a lightning discharge and become a part of the lightning's path as it travels from cloud to cloud, or from cloud to ground. The accompanying photographs show this clearly.

But, granting that a plane is struck, what is the effect on the pilot and passengers? Studies will be carried out to determine the probability of a shock to occupants of an open plane, a closed cabin plane and an all-metal job. When a plane is down near a charged cloud, it is in a strong electrostatic field. If a lightning discharge takes place, not necessarily striking the plane, this field suddenly collapses. Mr. Austin believes that the collapse may subject the pilot to such a severe electrostatic shock that he may lose control of his plane, temporarily at least.

The passage of a lightning discharge through the air creates a vacuum. The air, rushing into the evacuated region, causes the intense noise called thunder. Just what effect such a clap of thunder a few feet from a pilot and passengers would have, is another problem upon which data will be gathered.

The ignition system, especially the magnetos, is considered a vulnerable part of an airplane from a lightning hazard standpoint. But the ignition is not necessarily the part of a plane that will first be affected by lightning. Tests on magnetos set-ups and other electrical parts are being made to learn whether insulation is broken down, and what other failures are probable.

Several engineers and scientists who have studied the problem are inclined to believe that hot exhaust gases, because of their ionizing effect, create a path for lightning and serve to attract it to the plane. Mr. Austin, however, thinks that the gases from a plane in flight may become cooled so quickly that their ionizing effect is negligible. He is planning experiments on running engines to learn the exact part each plays. Measurements of the dielectric strength of the air in the vicinity of a running engine coordinate the method of attack.

THE FINE HAZARD is one of the most discussed aspects of the lightning-airplane question. It is not yet definitely known whether a gasoline tank will be fired by a direct lightning hit, whether the fabric covering of a wing will be ignited at the point at which a discharge strikes, or whether the oil and fuel vapors in an engine crankcase constituting an explosive mixture, can be ignited through fusion of metal in a point of high resistance or through other action. All of these things are being studied in the Barberian laboratory.

Examination of the structural details of planes in common use indicates that the design may be such as to invite a hit at certain points. For instance, it is thought that a tail striking a tail surface may ignite the fabric covering, or may cause the control wires to



This experimental device is used for photographing artificial lightning. The camera is connected to a magnetic relay which is set to follow up a switch on the observer. Strikes of lightning in actual tests are not necessary. The observer operates at 500 yards a wire when an artificial discharge is made.

## AVIATION

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fact. But it is quite certain that single structural members involving perhaps a slight change in design and the application of only a pound or two of extra metal will provide complete protection. Similarly, other structural hazards can be removed easily.

IN ALMOST every place there are joints in the metal parts, and at these points, unless the bonding is unusually perfect, the metal can be injured materially by the sudden passing of several hundred thousand amperes of current. Such injury could be avoided, either through the failure of the metal itself or by ignoring surrounding material. It is almost certain that the lightning investigations will result in a development of better bonding methods, and their application by airplane builders.

But regardless of the exact nature of the findings of engineers, there is one thing that is clear. It has been learned that will enable manufacturers, users and operators to proceed less in the dark than in the past.

The lightning hazard in ballooning is fairly well known, and several disastrous accidents have occurred to balloons. It was following such an accident that Ward T. Van Orman, internationally known balloonist, cooperated with Mr. Austin last spring to develop a method of protecting the passenger basket and possibly the bag itself from electrical discharges. The resources of the outdoor laboratory were made available, and eventually a shunting system, consisting of copper cables suspended about the basket, was perfected by Mr. Austin, and used by Van Orman in this year's races. A similar method of protecting the gas-filled bag was worked out at the same time.

As for rigid airships, having metal frames, there are several instances on record of Zeppelins having been struck by lightning. In some cases, there was a trace of metal at some point in the skinless where resistance was high. In only two instances were the airships set on fire when the hydrogen lifting gas was ignited by lightning. The heaviest metal framework of a modern rigid-type airship acts as a huge Faraday cage, effectively absorbing and dissipating the lightning charge.

The laboratory itself deserves some comment. It is the only place where outdoor lightning tests on full-sized airplanes can be carried out without the construction of a completely new laboratory. The plant is built on a portion of the model farm formerly belonging to the late O. C. Barber, one-time match king. Some of the instruments, generators, switchboards and other equipment are housed in a chicken-barn building that was originally designed as a cow barn. In the courtyard stand three of the largest transformers now used. Each is rated to 900,000 volts, and the three working together can produce a spark of a potential exceeding 3,000,000 volts. The units are arranged in steps on special porcelain tiers. The highest stands 30 ft. above the ground. Flues the high-voltage transformer leads go to a huge air condenser that is really a form of cage-type radio aerial. The charge is stored on this cage until the discharge to the ground (which forms the other "plate" of the condenser system) takes place.

For measuring and controlling the voltage, four pairs of spheres, grouped in threes, are used. Each sphere, with its insulator, weighs over half a ton, and is 150 centimeters (nearly 5 ft.) in diameter—the largest ever constructed. They were made by an electrolytic process, copper being deposited in hemispherical molds. The metal is therefore nearly 100 per cent pure.

Then there are a number of sections, ranging in

size from 1,200 kv. down each capable of producing a continuous spark discharge, the largest of which is many feet in length. The laboratory contains the world's most complete collection of transmission line towers. These are used in almost daily insulator tests and measurements.

At one end of the laboratory strip there has been erected a system of wood poles, guys and transformers for supporting full-sized planes during tests. A Ford tri-axial plane can be hoisted easily. A grove of trees to the south and west reduces the intensity of the prevailing wind, making one of the things less difficult. It is also necessary to have comparatively calm weather for operating the lightning facility because a high wind will blow the discharges to one side.

Adjacent to the laboratory is a large, level field in which the largest plane can land or take off. The trees are being filed and suitable bags, a wind sock and other



Three transformers are among the largest ever built. Working together they produce artificial lightning of 3,000,000 volts potential.

markers placed so that the field can be used as a temporary landing area for the accommodation of visiting planes during the tests.

Research has been in progress for several months, and probably will continue through the winter. Conditions of weather will determine, to a considerable degree, the exact time required. Indications are that very reliable facts leading to greater safety for the flying public will be disclosed.



Kenneth  
M. Lane

## REGULATING Air Commerce

By KENNETH M. LANE  
Chief, Engineering Section, Aeronautics Branch,  
Department of Commerce

**T**HE PRIMARY FUNCTION of the Engineering Section is to insure the proper structural design of aircraft that are to be made eligible for license.

To accomplish this purpose it was first of all necessary to establish certain definite minimum requirements which must be met before an airplane could be certified as airworthy. The original requirements, issued in October, 1927, as the "Handbook for Airplane Designers," were based largely on Army and Navy practices modified to adapt them to commercial needs. As a result of the experience of the Aeronautics Branch and with the cooperation of the Army, Navy, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and Bureau of Standards, these requirements have been revised and amplified. The latest revision, recently issued as "Aeronautical Requirements" covers airplanes, engines and propellers.

A separate category has been established for light planes—those having a gross loading of more than 30 lb. per hp—and gliders. There has also been established a set of requirements for the approval or certification of airplane performance data. The introductory paragraph of this section reads as follows:—"On the premise that it will be highly desirable for the airplane manufacturer to know and to be able to advertise favorable performance characteristics of his product the Department of Commerce will approve such data when the requirements specified below have been considered with." It is interesting to note that so far no manufacturer has had the courtesy to avail himself of this service.

As more exact data become available and as the experience of the Department is widened, further modification and amplification of requirements will be necessary. Fortunately for the industry, most exact data will permit an escape of which it is believed, will more than offset the increase in rigidity of certain requirements which is necessitated by unsatisfactory experience. Basic data on strength of materials, possible loads on component parts of aircraft, free factors for various types of construction, etc., are obtained from the Army, Navy, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Bureau of Standards universities and technical schools, and to an appreciable extent from the airplane manufacturers themselves. Reports of accidents involving structural

*For the airplane manufacturer who, in his own opinion, has not received the action desired once his stress analysis has been forwarded to the Aeronautics Branch, the accompanying article should be of more than a little interest. It is the second of a series of the articles on the licensing and inspection work of the Aeronautics Branch, and contains authoritative information regarding proper procedure and obstacles encountered in the matter of obtaining that very much desired Approved Type Certificate. The third article of the series, appearing in next week's issue, is by Jesse W. Lankford, chief, Registration Section, and deals with the licensing of airmen and aircraft.*

failure furnish the major portion of the experience upon which modification of the requirements is based. These are augmented by miscellaneous reports from inspectors and operators, and personal experience of the Engineering Section personnel. The Department is also advised by the various regulatory services of other governments, particularly the Canadian, for data based upon their experience with commercial aviation. The study and correlation of all these data constitute an appreciable portion of the activities of the section.

**H**AVING established the requirements for airworthiness, it is the task of the Engineering Section to examine the data submitted by the airplane manufacturer to

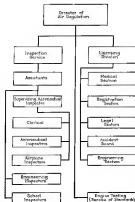
## ARTICLE II— ENGINEERING

determine whether or not these requirements have been met. The data to be submitted consists of a complete set of drawings, stress analyses of wings, fuselage, landing gear, control surfaces, control system and all fittings connecting parts of the primary structure, and the general specifications for the airplane, including a list of standard equipment furnished with the airplane.

The drawings are examined for conformity with the requirements and with good engineering and shop practice. An attempt is made at this time to discover any details or features which may develop weakness or cause trouble in service. Most of these are the result of an exact analysis but are designed largely by judgment. As we readily be appreciated, this is not an easy task when working solely with drawings, and it is not always possible to detect these faults. Fortunately this investigation is supplemented by a visual examination of the actual airplane by the engineering inspectors.

The drawings are then checked against the stress analysis in order to determine whether or not the structure analyzed is identical with that which will presumably be built from the drawings. Strange as it may seem, it is no unusual occurrence to find that size and material called for in the analysis differ from those shown on the drawing.

The stress analysis is then checked for completeness, for errors of assumption, for deviations from approved methods and for mathematical errors. This checking constitutes the major part of the work of the section and at the present time requires the services of nine engineers. The time required for checking a complete new design will vary from one to three weeks. The longer time required is not always due to the greater size and complication of design of the airplane, but is often attributable to lack of clarity of the analysis. The stock reply to the question "What can I do to expedite approval of my design?" is "Have your data correct, complete and presented in such form that it is easy to follow." Occasionally there will be found an analysis which would require for its investigation, the combined efforts of a seventh one of a seventh one and a cross-word puzzle expert equipped with a crypta board. It is obvious that such designer will have his own general



Organizational Chart of the engineering activities of the Aeronautics Branch. Where activities, together with Aeronautics Branch, are not under direct supervision of the Aeronautics Branch of the Department of Commerce.

method of attacking the various problems involved in a stress analysis and his own characteristic type of detail design. For this reason, insofar as it is possible, all data emanating from a given company or designer is assigned to the same checker. His familiarity with the method enables him to check the analysis more expeditiously than a man who has been accustomed to a slightly different procedure.

A common source of delay—in that it involves an interchange of correspondence and the preparation and submission of additional data—in lack of completeness. Ideally, this applies to drawings as well as to stress analysis. In the case of the latter, it may be failure to investigate the structure for one or more of the required conditions of loading, failure to investigate the strength of certain members or details—this is particularly true of fittings—or failure to investigate eccentrically loaded or curved stress.

There has been a gradual decrease in the number of cases involving errors of assumption. There is still room for improvement, however, and it is hoped that in the course of time all engineering departments will become familiar with approved methods. This will not entirely eliminate trouble from this source. Designers are still being submitted in which there is displayed a surprising

lack of knowledge of the fundamental principles of applied mechanics and the theory of structures. Many stress analysis men are willing to make practically any assumption rather than employ the theorems of least work in the investigation of a redundant structure. It is quite common to yield to the temptation to use a somewhat arbitrary assumption in order to avoid the necessity for strengthening a member when an increase in allowable gross weight is desired. One analysis, following a computation which showed that, with a coefficient of 1.0, a certain stress was under strength, stated quite frankly that inasmuch as a coefficient of 1.0 was traditional, a coefficient of 1.2 would be assumed. As might be expected, with the latter assumption, the stress would show a slight margin of safety.

Errors in stresses are principally due to failure to follow currently the procedure outlined in the requirements. Although it is difficult for the personnel of the Section to oversee of such a possibility, it may be that this is partly due to lack of clarity in the wording of the requirements. If such be the case, trouble from this source should gradually be eliminated. Where repeated confusion is found in connection with a certain item of the requirements, supplementary notes will be issued covering the subject more clearly and in greater detail.

Although some improvement has been noted of late, mathematical errors still contribute largely to the delay in obtaining an Approved Type Certificate. This is apparently due to the fact that only a few organizations have the calculations checked before submission to the Engineering Section. Such checking is, of course, not compulsory, but the manufacturer must run the risk of the loss of time occasioned by an increase of correspondence and preparation of corrections. Where the error is of such a nature that it is apparent that the strength of the structure is sufficient or that the effect of the error upon the final result may readily be determined, no correction is required. The designer, however, is advised of the error in order that he may bear it in mind when, at a later date—say, when the first airplane of the type is actually weighed—applies for approval of an increased gross weight. If the error is such as to require changes in design or where there are maximum of errors in that it would be necessary for the designer to rework the analysis, repeated corrections are required.

When the engineering data have been finally approved, a recommendation to this effect is sent to the Inspection Service requesting that an engineering inspection and flight test be conducted. In this recommendation are stated the maximum allowable gross weight, direction as to witnessing such static and dynamic tests as may be required, and remarks concerning any features of the design which should be given special attention by the inspector.

When the report of the engineering inspection is received it is checked and if it is found to be satisfactory, the airplane is approved as satisfactory and eligible for license. If, in addition, mobile manufacturing facilities are provided and factory methods are found satisfactory, an Approved Type Certificate may be issued. If it is not the intention of the manufacturer to produce the design in any great quantity, the plane is placed on the Group 2 list, i.e., plane eligible for license but not having an Approved Type Certificate.

In either case an engineering memorandum is written,

copies being sent to Inspection and Registration Sections. This memorandum contains a brief specification, stating wing weight data, and remarks as to the actual number of planes eligible, plans to be displayed, approved alternative equipment, etc. These serve as a guide to the eligibility of the various places for which applications for license are submitted to these two sections. The foregoing covers the processes involved in the issuing of an Approved Type Certificate for an airplane. The procedure is similar for the approval of a propeller except that a whirl test is substituted for the performance tests of the aircraft, and no stress analysis is required except in the case of unsymmetrical design.

Approval of engines is based upon actual endurance and flight tests and requires no stress analysis. The endurance tests, except in the case of engines which have already been approved by either the Army or the Navy, are conducted by the Bureau of Standards. As a result only a slight amount of work on the part of the Engineering Section is entailed in the granting of an Approved Type Certificate for an engine.

At present, the only other parts or units, approved as such are airplane floats. These are checked for strength, including strength of self-anchoring floats and for buoyancy. They are then approved for use on any airplane, the gross weight of which does not exceed that for which sufficient reserve buoyancy is provided. It is planned to provide for similar approval of other standard parts as rapidly as test data and additional increased license available. For the present, however, in the absence of such a blanket approval, each installation of such a unit is investigated for its specific application to the aircraft in question.

THERE HAS BEEN a steady increase in the volume of work required in connection with remodeling and repair of aircraft damaged in crashes. This consists of checking computations and examining drawings covering the proposed repairs. If they are found satisfactory, the drawings are stamped and sent to the Department of Commerce and then over to an inspector. The latter examines the repaired plane for conformity with drawings and for quality of material and workmanship.

In addition to the foregoing, there is a steady flow of general correspondence covering a wide range of subjects. Some of these, such as a request from an insurance company for information regarding the status of a particular model, may be answered by clerical personnel. Others, such as a request for enforcement of the method of analysis or the allowable stress involved in a new or unique type of design, will require considerable study and care in preparation of the reply by the Engineering personnel. It may be of interest to note that there has been of late a considerable volume of work of this sort. If all these projects are carried out, we shall see some very interesting solutions of the problem of metal construction.

Although such a reference has nothing to do with a description of the activities of the Engineering Section, it is felt that this article would be incomplete if it failed to pay tribute to the spirit of cooperation exhibited by the aircraft manufacturers and designers. In the line of opinion are bound to arise, but as long as the present attitude of the manufacturers is maintained, there should be no difficulty in reaching an amicable agreement. For its part, the Engineering Section, humbly endeavors to avoid the rejection of personal preference or prejudice into its investigation of the design.

## SURVEYING THE

By JOHN C. HOLME, JR.

# Airport Problem IN NEW YORK CITY

*The Second of a Series of Three Articles on the Important Question Typical of Most Congested Areas*

**T**HIRTY AIRPORTS have been constructed in and about New York. Unfortunately, their leaders have paid almost heed to the necessity for their co-ordination and the provision of adequate facilities for transportation to central Manhattan, the considerations regarded as most important in the two reports which were the subject of the previous article. Their important points, however, have been given too weight in the selection of sites for others which are now being developed, or for which definite plans have been made. In addition, several of the more severely stressed fields now in use are being improved to provide adequate facilities for passenger transport service.

In view of the importance of this matter of accessibility, especially in a large Metropolitan area like New York, and because of the tendency of using airport operators to quote minimum schedules to their fields, a survey of the actual hours required by various means of available transportation was made by the author. The results of this study indicate the seriousness of the problem of making airports as effective as the public has every right to expect.

The oldest field in the district is at Mineola, near Garden City, L. I. One of the first successful flights made by Glenn Curtiss took place there as long ago as 1909. During the War, it was developed by the army, and it remains a strictly military airport. It is now known as Mineola Field.

Roosevelt Field, also located at Mineola, was transferred into a commercial airport after the War. The old Curtiss Field has been incorporated with it, and it now comprises 425 acres, making it the largest as well as the best equipped airport in the New York district. It is known as the take-off site for every flight, including those of Lindbergh, Byrd, Chamberlain, and Hawke. They are not easily accessible. Located at a distance of 20½ miles by road, it is an hour and 15 minutes drive from

central Manhattan, via the Queensboro Bridge, Corona Avenue, Nassau Boulevard, following the arrow "Mineola, Fly, Roosevelt Field" which have been put up by Roosevelt Field, Inc. Trains on the Long Island Railroad under the trip to Mineola from the Pennsylvania Station in 40 minutes, leaving approximately every half hour. An additional 20 minutes is required to reach the field.

Roosevelt Field now has complete lighting equipment, a weather bureau, Department of Commerce station, and radio installation. A score of hangars provide complete service, sales and training. During the winter months there is some fog an average of three days per month, during the spring and autumn, two days per month, and during summer, one day per month. Local fog averages nine days per month throughout the year. Dense fogs may occur any time of day and frequently last throughout the entire day.

VIRTUALLY every line of commercial endeavor is represented at Roosevelt Field. Air Associates offers several types of planes for sale, plane and motor service, storage, taxi and pay-hops, and cross-country trips, the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company is immediately adjacent, dealers for practically every type plane have hangars on the part, the Fairchild Aerial Surveys headquarters is also at the field as is the American agency for Seasmobile-Holtek units. Several owners and operators of private planes have individual hangars on the field, among them Roger Wolfe Kahn. Civil is activity are the schools, the largest of which is Roosevelt Aviation School Inc., the parent company of which operates the field and a complete aerial unit, pay-hops, and cross-country service under the title of Roosevelt Flying Corporation. Several aerial advertising units, principally Skywriting Inc., Aerial Advertising Company, and Plane-Spinner Inc., also maintain headquarters at Roosevelt Field. One of



the nation's largest distributors of aircraft. George Weis maintains two hangars and demonstrates a half-dozen varieties of planes on the lot.

**H**anury Park, 30 miles by road from central Manhattan, is another field which was established early. Consisting of 80 acres, it has been well known as the eastern terminus of the air mail. It is a two-hour and fifteen minutes from New York by automobile via the Holland Tunnel, Jersey City, Newark, Elizabeth, Rahway, Metuchen and the Lincoln Highway. Trains from the Pennsylvania Station, leaving every 30 minutes on the average, make the run to New Brunswick, N. J., in one hour. The traveling time to the field on this route is one hour and 25 minutes including a four-mile taxi ride to the field from the New Brunswick station. Hudson Field is now controlled by New York Air Terminal, Inc., and on this site are located National Air Transport, Colonial Air Transport, Panavia Aviation, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Cinger-Transit-Air Distributor, a Weather Bureau station, and radio range station. There are three hangars on the field and complete lighting equipment for night flying. Plans have experienced close fogs in the field two days per month during winter and spring, and one day per month in summer and autumn, during the past year. Fogs usually last from about 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Newark metropolitan airport at Port Newark, N. J., has been developed as a result of the proposal of the Pines-Flushing Committee Report. It is the most accessible airport now in use near Manhattan. By automobile it is 45 minutes from Times Square, via Canal Street, Holland Tunnel, and extension of the Lincoln Highway. It is 25 minutes from Canal Street and Broadway and 30

minutes from the downtown station. Accommodations for passengers on the Colonial Boston-New York trip are made by a company bus from Hotel Pennsylvania to the field. It is a 50-minute trip from Times Square via Hudson tubes. The Lincoln Highway is to be improved, which will reduce the driving time from the field to Canal Street and Broadway to a 20-minute trip. Located at the field are: Eastern Aeronautical Corporation, Distributor for Riva, Consolidated Steamers, Curtiss Wright Flying Service and Wright Motor Service, Newark Air Service, distributors for Travel Air and operators of a Flying School, Colonial Air Transport, whose passenger and mail planes fly to and from Boston on a twice daily schedule; United States Airlines; Baltimore, Annapolis, and Weather Bureau station; longer of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and Interstate Flight; Inc. There are two hangars under construction for Calumet and the National Guard in addition to the four occupied by Eastern Aeronautical, Newark Air Service, Colonial and Standard Oil Company. There are observation and beacon lights. Transport operations were suspended six days in April, five days in May, two days in June, two days in July, three days in August, and seven days in September, 1939, due to fog, smoke or stormy conditions. Plans report that fog is greater in the early spring than the fall and still less in winter.

**A**NOTHER one of the older airports in New Jersey is at Hawthorne Heights in the Hackensack Meadows area. It is owned by Teterboro Airport, Inc., and located 10 miles by road from downtown Manhattan. It is reached in 85 minutes driving via the 42nd Street ferry and Hudson Railroad through Little Ferry and Hackensack Heights or approximately one hour from

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**T**imes Square. It can be reached in 55 minutes of traveling by 42nd Street trolley, ferry, and two bus routes, or in one hour on the Jersey Central, or 45 minutes from Times Square via the Patterson bus line. The run from Liberty Street Ferry by train to Hackensack Heights station, adjacent to the field, is 45 minutes with trains running every hour and a half. The eastern factory of the Fokker Aircraft Company is located on the field. There are also a Wright Aeronautical Corporation hangar and the Teterboro Flying Service and the New Standard Flying Service at the field. Two hangars and seven acres of the field have been developed and there are three hangars. There is damage for an average of three days per month in winter, two days per month in the spring and fall, and one day per month in summer, with light fogs nine days per month throughout the year.

Curtiss-Wright Flying Service, originally at Curtis Field, Mineola, has its main field at Valley Stream, L. I., eight miles by road from central Manhattan. It is a one-hour drive from Times Square via the 94th Street Bridge, Queens Boulevard, and southeast to the field, or 30 minutes from downtown Manhattan, via the Manhattan Bridge, Flushing, Atlantic and Indian Avenues, and Sunrise Highway to the field. Trains leaving every half hour from Pennsylvania Station on the Long Island Railroad arrive at Valley Stream in 32 minutes, making the actual traveling time to the field 50 minutes. There are modern hangars covering completely and the field is used for student instruction and Curtiss-Wright run and chartered aerial transportation service. The field has a total of 400 acres.

The Queens-Flushing Bay area designated in the Pines-Flushing Committee report has received much attention for proposed airports recently on account of its accessibility to upper Manhattan. This area corresponds to area No. 2 of the Regional Plan and is at present the location for three major airport developments. Hudson Airport at Jackson Heights, three miles air line from Times Square and eight miles by road, is 35 minutes drive via the 94th Street bridge and Northern Boulevard. The Flushing J. R. T. trains run to within a 10-minute taxi ride of the field in 22 minutes, and bus routes from Fifth Avenue at 42nd St. and the Waldorf Astoria bus terminal, make the trip to the field in one hour and 20 minutes. The field is at present unimproved. Although 200 acres are being used by the Gates Flying Service for hops and taxi operations. It is expected that the airport will be completed next spring and other hangars in addition to the three present ones will be in use. With the completion of the officially adopted Tri-Borough Bridge and Boulevard, this airport will be readily accessible to upper Manhattan and southern Queens.

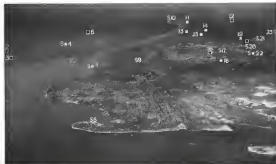


Below: Field, Times Square, L. I., via subway airport in the district, considers the two fields currently known as Hudson (1), and Valley (2). Field is 1000 ft. high and is 100 ft. above sea level.

The New York Air Terminal airplane base at North Beach, Queens, is the location of a proposed 200-acre airport development adjacent to the present airplane base. The airport will be 35 minutes by road from central Manhattan via the 26th St. Bridge and Northern Boulevard or approximately 30 minutes from Times Square. The existing motor bus service from the 42nd Street East River terminal to the airplane base adjacent to the proposed field will also be used for the airport. Via Flushing train from Times Square and 74th Street and Broadway, and back, the time is approximately 42 minutes. This trip was made in 21 minutes from the 42nd Street dock or about 40 minutes from Times Square under average traffic conditions. It is possible that in the future most of the new existing permanent and fully equipped airports will be too far from the center of population to be used for air transportation, but will be large enough and equipped fully enough to be very appropriately used for student flying, instruction, and other general commercial activities.

**T**HE WHITEHORSE AIRPORT at Amnisk, N. Y., operated by Whitehorse Airport Corp., is 35 miles by road from central Manhattan. It is a one hour and 30 minute drive via Bronx River Parkway and through White Plains and route 22, or one hour and 30 minutes from Grand Central to White Plains on trains leaving every 25 minutes, the time from White Plains station to the airport by car being 55 minutes. Arrangements can be made by telephone for the company car to meet the train, reducing the time for the trip to one hour and 15 minutes. Bennett Airways, beside giving instruction in distributor for Fairchild and Stinson planes.

The field of Aviation Country Club, Inc., located near Hicksville, L. I., is unique in the respect that it is not intended to serve the metropolitan district passenger, or commercial operators. It is 30 miles by road from central Manhattan a one hour and 30 minute trip by taxi via the



White Horace airport, showing various landing fields. White Horace has proposed airplane landing fields. 1000 ft. above sea level and proposed airport buildings. 1. Flushing Meadows, 2. Flushing Meadows, 3. Flushing Meadows, 4. Flushing Meadows, 5. Flushing Meadows, 6. Flushing Meadows, 7. Flushing Meadows, 8. Flushing Meadows, 9. Flushing Meadows, 10. Flushing Meadows, 11. Flushing Meadows, 12. Flushing Meadows, 13. Flushing Meadows, 14. Flushing Meadows, 15. Flushing Meadows, 16. Flushing Meadows, 17. Flushing Meadows, 18. Flushing Meadows, 19. Flushing Meadows, 20. Flushing Meadows, 21. Flushing Meadows, 22. Flushing Meadows, 23. Flushing Meadows, 24. Flushing Meadows, 25. Flushing Meadows, 26. Flushing Meadows, 27. Flushing Meadows, 28. Flushing Meadows, 29. Flushing Meadows, 30. Flushing Meadows, 31. Flushing Meadows, 32. Flushing Meadows, 33. Flushing Meadows, 34. Flushing Meadows, 35. Flushing Meadows, 36. Flushing Meadows, 37. Flushing Meadows, 38. Flushing Meadows, 39. 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99th St. Brooklyn, Queensboro Boulevard, Corson Avenue, Nassau Boulevard and Motor Parkway on approximately one hour and 55 minutes from Times Square. Trains on the Long Island Railroad to Hicksville run every 30 minutes from Pennsylvania Station, the time to the field being 50 minutes. The 50-acre airport is the finest grass-covered field in this area. The club house offers every accommodation to visiting sportsmen pilots. It is private in membership, and is intended for Long Islanders interested in sport flying. The 40-plane hangar is at present inadequate to house all planes belonging to present members of the Aviation Country Club. The field is located far enough away from Roosevelt Field and other commercial flying operations so that the student flying solo is not apt to be unduly disturbed.

Another airport designed for similar purposes is in Farmingdale Field in Nassau County, L. I. It is part of the real estate development of Brady, Crys and Callahan, and is intended for private flying. It is 30 miles by road from Manhattan, or an hour and a half ride from Times Square via the Seawater Highway to Massena Park or approximately. Trains leave from the Pennsylvania Station every hour, making the trip in 50 minutes to Massena station. A private coach operates a taxi and pay-dropping service on the 18-acre field.

**Ten Flats** is a very unusual airport is located near Barren Island in Brooklyn. The field is twelve miles from Times Square and is reached by car in 65 minutes via the Manhattan Bridge and Flatbush Avenue, or 35 minutes from Borough Hall, Brooklyn. It is reached by the I.R.T. subway, Nostrand Avenue line and two in 68 minutes. Three hundred and eighty-five of the total 800 acres will be reached with completed runways by next spring. Contracts for fourteen hangars are being accepted. The port will have a seaplane channel on Jamaica Bay. The field is unusually free from obstructions, and the existing overhead wires along Flatbush Avenue are to be put underground.

The Seacoast airport of New York City, on Tompkins, I.e., to be located in Hudson County, N. J., will offer

a large, completely equipped seaplane base with seaplane facilities within 30 miles of the business districts of Manhattan. Via the Holland Tunnel and Old County Road this location is 27 minutes from Times Square, and company buses will accommodate passengers to the field. Eight hundred acres are being developed of the total 1,100-acre area, with 80 acres for seaplane facilities. This was a proposed site designated by both the Fast-Finding Committee and the Regional Plan Committee as the Hudson-Meadows area. Earliest operations on this port will be next summer. The area is adjacent to the Hudson River and is cut by the Erie Railroad. The site has fewer days per year of ice use for time in the territory immediately south of it.

**TAKING** all several existing flying fields in the New York Division which at the present date have been undeveloped and are used by private companies for limited hops and taxi service. They include the Barren Island Airport adjacent to the Floyd Bennett Municipal Field, the Brooklyn Flying Service located at Ave. U and Corson Ave., and the Jamaica Sea Airport at Seagram Field Boulevard and Junction Rd., Brooklyn. In addition to the above mentioned land airports, there are the following landing fields proposed or under construction, most of which are near enough to the metropolitan district to offer a solution to the problem of a large fully equipped airport accessible for metropolitan air transportation needs. White Plains, N. Y.: Hunsner, N. J.: Starnett, N. J.: Morris, N. J.: White House, N. J.: Somerville, N. J.: Rahway, N. J.: Cranford, Junction, N. J.: Elizabeth, N. J.: Clarks-Wright Flying Service proposes development of the Hardens River area designated as a desirable location by the Fast-Finding Committee and the Regional Planning Committee, and has an airport at Manhattan, N. J., under construction. The site for the proposed Jersey City airport on Newark Bay at Dovers Point, N. J., has been proposed for land and seaplane. It is 38 minutes from Times Square via the Holland Tunnel and Hudson Boulevard, or 50 minutes by Hudson Tubes from 34th Street by automobile.



The Floyd Bennett municipal airport near Barren Island, Brooklyn.



Seacoast airport at Hudson-Meadows, N. J., one of the other airports in the metropolitan area.

Site 13 of the Fast-Finding Committee's recommendations for the Queens-Flushing Bay area is one of an undeveloped field being used by the Pioneer Aerial Trades School. The three hundred and five acres are to be developed by next spring by New York City Airport, Inc., for a land and seaplane port. It is 51 miles strike from Times Square and 30 miles by road via 94th Street Bridge and Northern Boulevard. It is a 35-minute drive or 30 minutes on the Flushing 187 subway line to Times Square. The Queens-Flushing Railroad is in 25 minutes to the Bridge Street station with trains every half hour. The station is two blocks from the airport. It is proposed that a railroad station will be developed on this line adjacent to the property, making it 35 minutes from Pennsylvania Station or 40 minutes from Times Square.

There are, as mentioned above, three major airport developments in area No. 2 designated by the Regional Plan Committee for New York and its environs, which corresponds to the Queens-Flushing Bay area in the Fast-Finding Committee report. The Hoboken and North Beach airports, 20 and 35 minutes respectively by auto from Times Square, furnish the best airports for central Manhattan in that area from the point of view of accessibility, a primary consideration from most viewpoints. North Beach at present is fully equipped with seaplane and amphibious air transportation services. New York City Airport, Inc., to be completed on site No. 13, of College Point, will be a third readily accessible port for both seaplane and land planes, as it is only ten blocks from the Bridge St. station of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a 25-minute run from Pennsylvania Station. In the area, it is interesting to note that site 61, the first choice of the Fast-Finding Committee, is quite listed as an airport proposal in the Regional Plan of New York in its proposed airport system.

In the criticism of Dwight Morrow, of the Regional Plan Committee (not the Ambassador to Mexico—Ed.), and also of the Topographical Bureau of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of Queens, that this site, known as the Jasper Valley Marsh, could be filled by excavation from the approaches of the proposed Barden Ave.-38th Street vehicular tunnel, which has already been approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. This tunnel, to be completed by 1935, will provide an ex-

press highway, from 38th Street and Third, Fourth or Fifth Avenues, Manhattan, with no intersection on the express highway, direct to Jasper Valley Marsh. An automobile will cross the river in 13 seconds. There are no seaplane accommodations available at this site, however.

The Ten-Borough bridge recently approved by city officials, will provide a rapid means of transportation from upper Manhattan and southern Bronx to airports adjacent to Flushing Bay and Northern Queens. In area 3 of the Regional Plan, Pelham Bay Park and vicinity, which corresponds to the Bronx East River area in the Fast-Finding Committee report, there is the Curtis-Hall-Meadows River project.

**THE** question resolves itself into two issues. Will airports have to be located closer to the center of population in the metropolitan district, or will express highways be built, or developed directly to the fields? For aviation development of an express highway route on Long Island would make the large airports which are now more fully developed and which have no physical obstructions, accessible to the metropolitan area, by virtue of being within the 30-minute range by transportation facilities from the metropolitan district. Due to the cost of other construction some express highways or development existing routes into express highways, it is held that the more practical solution for this whole problem is in the development of the Jasper Valley site, which would be 15 minutes from central Manhattan; the extension of the proposed 38th Street underground vehicular tunnel in Manhattan under the Hudson River to the Flatlands-Meadows where the Seagrams airport is being developed, and the establishment of docks, postcard cruises and reefs either on the Jersey shore, the Battery, or Ellis Island in lower New York Bay, for seaplane accommodation, the outlying parts being used as bases of service, repair and storage.

It is probable that both solutions will be used eventually, and it may be assumed that rapid transit facilities will be extended to the more outlying fields before those which are being constructed or planned within short range become overcrowded. However, it will be at least a year before present projects for providing the Metropolitan district with adequate airports inside the 30-minute radius from central Manhattan are completed.

## OPERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE

# Aviation Credit Corporation

*A Detailed Outline of the Working Policies of this Organization Which has Been a Valuable Aid in the Sale of Aircraft in this Country*

By L. W. MITCHELL, JR.  
Vice-President, Aviation Credit Corporation

*Financing of aircraft sales has, in the past, been much conspicuous by its absence. Little by little, however, serious attention has been paid to this all important item, with the result that today there are several workable and reasonable time payment plans available. In the development of these plans, Aviation Credit Corporation has played a small part. In the accompanying article Mr. Mitchell writes in detail of the company's policies and methods, and discusses the various problems relating to aircraft financing that still remain to be satisfactorily solved.*

**R**EALIZING that the day had arrived when the Time Payment Plan had become a necessary adjunct to the sale of aircraft, one of the more prominent groups in the industry formed Aviation Credit Corporation in the early months of 1929.

Characteristics of the policy of this aircraft group, a program of very searching investigation of problems was carried out before announcement of plans was made, and results to date seem to have justified the preliminary work done. During its first six months' operation, from April 1 to September 30, Aviation Credit advised its factory and dealer connections by financing a very satisfactory percentage of total aircraft sales.

In order to secure the maximum services of trained credit and collection personnel, an arrangement was made through which the administration of Aviation Credit's program was assumed by Commercial Credit Company, one of the large national finance companies. These companies have a record behind them of seventeen years of successful operation in automobile and similar financing, and maintain branch offices in approximately 200 cities in the United States and Canada, as well as offices throughout most of the world's civilized countries.

A very striking feature of this arrangement is the branch office network, by virtue of which airplane dealers may obtain credit and purchase-of-paper service practically everywhere, and the necessary collection service is also assured.

The retail financing plan of Aviation Credit, which is perhaps its most important function, is based on the following four theories:

1. The airplane dealer should receive the full list price of the plane he sells at the time of sale.
2. The seller of aircraft should assume sufficient liability on the paper to preclude the Finance Company being forced to merchandise used ships.

3. The system of requiring endorses is not practical in volume business.
4. The cultural behind the paper, i.e., the airplane, should be protected by insurance against physical damage in loss.

TO EXAMINE on Theory No. 1, it would appear that the system of finance companies' withholding a portion of the proceeds due the dealer when he sells a plane on time would be a hardship on him. The business of merchandising aircraft is far from being on a standard, consistently profitable basis, and it seems evident that dealers mostly urgently need every penny due them when they make a sale immediately upon delivery of the plane. It is being said that the evil of over-capitalization has crept into the aircraft industry, very few dealers are troubled with this evil. Furthermore the "hold back" system was tried and found wanting in automobile financing some years ago, and there is certainly sufficient security in the two facts to justify the 100 per cent advance to dealers selling airplanes.

Theory No. 2, that of dealer insurance, is a widely discussed one. There are two extremes that may be reached in financing, of which the first is purchase of paper by finance companies without recourse on the dealer. This method appears to be fallacious because the finance company has no jobs, no leverage, nor service and resale facilities, and consequently it is in a serious predicament in case it becomes necessary to repossess a plane. As a result, the finance company will be ultra-cautious in the selection of the paper it purchases, and will be so timid that only the 100 per cent guaranteed transaction will be accepted. A financing service of this nature will prove to be of little value to a sales assistance to factories and dealers.

The other extreme is for the finance company to require the dealer to guarantee out-and-out the payment of the purchaser's note (as is sometimes become defini-

tioned the finance company can call on the dealer to pay the balance due, and is under no obligation to afford the dealer collection service in an attempt to extract payment from the purchaser. This system of guaranteed paper as often leads to the very evil practice of the finance company, eager for volume of business, purchasing indifferent or poor paper merely on the strength of the dealer's endorsement.

There is a middle ground between these two extremes, and Aviation Credit has adopted this middle ground. That is the system of "Repossession Agreement," which quite fairly divides the losses. The finance company furnishes the legal credit and collection work, and the dealer takes care of the merchandising of airplanes, should any be repossessed.

Under the terms of the Repurchase Agreement, the finance company must locate, repossess and clear title to aircraft before the dealer has any obligation. Then, the dealer is only required to buy back merchandise, upon which he can realize, and usually profit.

The finance company has a very serious obligation to the dealer in purchasing paper on the Repurchase basis, and that obligation is to exercise its best credit judgment to protect the dealer from loss without being unduly strict on credit requirements. It would obviously be the poorest possible practice for a finance company to purchase a weak note just because the dealer stands behind it, merely to repurchase the plane if repossessed. It is the policy of Aviation Credit to reject paper that has all the appearances of loss to the dealer, but the fact that repossessing does not always result in losses (they have frequently proved quite profitable to the dealer), permits a certain latitude. It may be said in defense of the Repurchase Agreement that a repossessing involves the finance company no more or less trouble and unpleasantness, and they are not likely to purchase much paper which will go bad, accumulating foreclosures, and thereby ease the dealer loss. All circumstances regarding each

individual transaction must be very carefully considered.

Theory No. 3, concerning the requirement for the purchaser to secure endorses on his note, may be briefly dealt with. This system has been found to be too complex and cumbersome in other financing fields where volume business is involved. There is only a limited supply of endorses in the country, and their signatures can never take the place of other security, such as insurance. Endorses, however, have and will continue to have a very definite place in many airplane transactions, any way to strengthen credits is welcomed by finance company and dealer alike. But it is becoming evident that the endorser system will not stand the test of volume business.

THEORY No. 4 is the insurance requirement, which is frequently (and erroneously) considered to be a sales necessity. Aviation Credit feels that it is in keeping with sound financing practice that the collateral behind each note be protected against physical damage, and for that reason it is required that each plane financed be covered against the hazards of fire, theft, weather and crash. In order to secure uniform protection, afforded by known insurance companies, Aviation Credit places this coverage, and the purchase of the plane involves the original policy. The Liability Coverages will also be placed if the purchaser so desires, as a matter of fact, more than 50 per cent of the purchasers that have bought through Aviation Credit have requested the Liability coverages, and have taken advantage of the very reasonable rates that have been procured. It seems to be found that insurance rates are somewhat high, but Aviation Credit has been fortunate in being able to secure quite reasonable rates for the required coverages.

Aside of the standard of maximum protection for the insured financed, there are two other points to be considered: (1), the great majority of responsible purchasers would buy insurance themselves to protect their



























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### TRADE CATALOGS—(4)

**BEARING SERVICE.** A folder recently published by the Federal Metal Corporation outlines the bearing and bearing service of this company and includes a discussion of the factors governing bearing selection. A list of their line of bearings and bearings is also included.

**WHEEL SERVICE EQUIPMENT.** A circular on wheel service equipment entitled "Wheel Service and the Modern Airport" has just been issued by the Hubert Bros. Company. The circular discusses all equipment illustrated and described, including battery service, electrical service, hydraulic wheeling, spray painting, tire and free air service and general repairing.

### Fairair Aircraft Bearings

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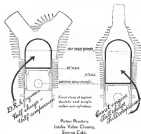


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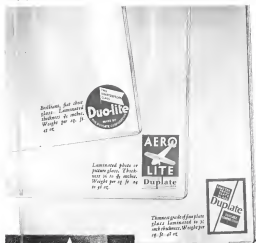
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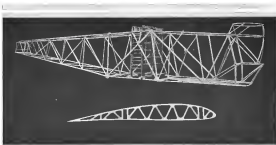
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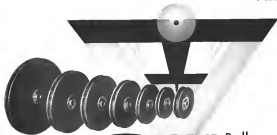
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